

City of Renton

Board of Park Commissioners



Meeting Minutes

June 9, 2015

4:30 p.m. – Maplewood Golf Course – Alder Room

I. CALL TO ORDER

In Attendance

The following members were present:

Members: Chair Troy Wigestrang, Cynthia Burns, Al Dieckman, Mike O'Donin, Larry Reymann, Tim Searing, Marlene Winter

Staff: Terry Higashiyama, Margie Beitner, Leslie Betlach, Kris Stimpson

Guests: Avni Mungra

The June 9, 2015, meeting was called to order by Chair, Troy Wigestrang, at 4:30 p.m. Roll call was taken; all Commissioners were present. Troy thanked Cynthia Burns for her commitment as chair and the City staff for their hard work and dedication. He also commented that he would like to continue in this stride.

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Terry Higashiyama noted one change to the June Agenda – The introduction of the golf course concessionaire and tour of the natural area will need to be rescheduled for a later date as Kelly Beymer was unable to attend. A motion was made by Cynthia Burns to approve the June 9, 2015, agenda as amended. Larry Reymann seconded the motion, motion carried.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Mike O'Donin and seconded by Cynthia Burns to approve the May 2015 minutes as written, motion carried. The minutes were approved as submitted.

IV. BOARD COMMUNICATION

Terry Higashiyama introduced one guest in attendance, Avni Mungra. Avni is a possible candidate for the Youth Commission position on the board.

Terry also presented a certificate of appreciation to Cynthia Burns for her role as Chair for the Committee and thanked her for her time and commitment to the Parks Commission.

City Center Plan—Mike O'Donin

The next meeting is scheduled for June 25, 2015. Mike also asked about the graffiti along the trail and mentioned that he had heard a lot of response on how quick it was taken care of. Terry Higashiyama explained that last week Tuesday evening the trail was tagged all the way down the trail. Terry mentioned the City had to change out signs at several locations due to the graffiti/vandalism.

Cedar River Stakeholder – Larry Reymann

Larry noted there are two meetings of interest coming up; please feel free to attend. Larry thanked Leslie Betlach for following this matter and for the flyers handed out with meeting notices.

Larry also touched on the documentary he is participating in; Seahurst/Burien – they received a grant to produce a documentary. This is a great help to engage citizens and good things are happening with kids and sense of ownership in the community.

Troy Wigestrland asked about the Eastside Rail Corridor upcoming meeting. Leslie noted this takes on from the mouth to Ron Regis Park – there are six (6) conceptual plans many impacting parks and trails.

Commission Ordinance – Troy Wigestrland and Al Dieckman

They have received the packet of information from other cities to look over and discuss; and will be looking at the history and see what works for other cities. This item will be left on agenda for future discussion.

Mike O'Donin asked about the memorial benches and trees along the trail and whether citizens can request memorials for pets. Terry Higashiyama suggested persons review the new memorial policy that is posted on the City's webpage under Community Services. The "Growing Tree" located at the Renton Community Center is one way a person can donate in memory of anyone. Kris Stimpson also mentioned they have a pet cemetery at Marymoor Park.

V. CITY COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

Kris Stimpson applied for a grant for the Life Jacket Loaner Program. The City received a grant worth \$1,000.00 from Sea Tow (a company located on East Coast). This grant helped provide 50 life jackets. Jackets were placed on a stand near the pay box at the Coulon Boat Launch and can be used free of charge by park patrons. Kris reported that the program is working really well.

In addition, Kris Stimpson noted that the City was awarded another grant through the King County Van Pool Program. King County Councilmember, Dave Upthegrove delivered a blue 15-passenger van to the City on May 12, 2015, and it will be used for recreation programs.

Kris also shared that Debbie Little, Recreation Program Coordinator at the Senior Center received the "Professional of the Year" award from Washington State Association of Senior Centers (WSASC). Debbie has been with the City of Renton for 35 years and at the Renton Senior Center for 27 years. Debbie is an outstanding individual and is very supportive and understanding when working with the seniors.

Terry Higashiyama advised that Community Services also received the following grant funds from various sources:

1. **King Conservation District - \$10,500** in 2015 for marketing and promotion of Renton Farmers Market.
2. **Partnerships to Improve Community Health (PICH)** - The City was awarded **\$20,539.00 in 2015 / 3 year grant** – for 2016 and 2017. For support of the new EBT Program at the Renton Farmers Market – granted amount could be more or less depending on the City's needs.
3. **United Way of King County - \$2,500 and 4 Corps Members / Summer Lunch** Program in partnership with the Renton School District. These funds help buy supplies and provide support to the 2015 King County Summer Meals Campaign End Summer Hunger. The Corps Members will be instrumental in marketing, recruiting and retaining participants to the summer meal sites by providing recreation activities , provide nutrition information and encourage the youth to participate in the KCLS summer reading program.

Terry Higashiyama briefly reviewed the candidates for the 2016 Elections. Terry reminded all board commissioners that they can campaign as citizens/residents; however not as a "Parks Commissioner".

VI. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

Tim Searing commented on the availability of funding sources – and asked whether things seem to be improving. Terry Higashiyama noted that the city continues to build a base and grow from there. We are striving for success and accountability in the Community Services Department, while improving community environments, encouraging agencies to support the City's efforts. Terry commented that during lean times the City needs to keep finding ways to keep moving forward; small steps, continually strive to be successful and show credibility by reporting results and providing supporting data.

Troy Wigestrang inquired as to how many children are served through the Summer Lunch Program. Terry said she can retrieve that information and provide it to him. Tim Searing asked who is accepted into this program. Terry noted that all who are under 18 are accepted into the Lunch Program. There are no questions asked of those who show up for free lunches; just that they meet the age criteria.

Kris Stimpson stated that the Henry Moses Aquatic Center and the Beaches at Coulon and Kennydale open for the season on June 20.

VII. ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

No Smoking Policy – Terry Higashiyama

The Health Department is pushing to "Ban" smoking in Parks and on Trails. Metro Transit banned smoking in all Transit Areas. The City is looking at banning smoking in the Piazza Park. This policy is currently being reviewed. The Board of Park Commissioners approved moving ahead with a "No Smoking" policy at the Piazza.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

None noted.

IX. INFORMATION

Leslie provided handouts for the following three public meetings:

- **June 11, 2015 (6:00 – 7:30 p.m.) - Open House – Lower Cedar River Restoration Assessment Project; Renton City Hall – 7th Floor Council Chambers**
- **June 15, 2015 (5:30 – 8:00 p.m.) - Cedar River Corridor Plan Recreation Workshop at Renton Technical College, Culinaire Room**
- **June 23, 2015 (6:00 – 8:00 p.m.) – Eastside Rail Corridor Regional Trail Master Plan at Talbot Hill Elementary, 2300 Talbot Rd South, Renton, WA**

Leslie Betlach encouraged board commissioners to attend meetings and be a part of public input process.

In reference to the Cedar River Corridor Plan Recreation Workshop and the Lower Cedar River Restoration Assessment Project, Larry Reymann pointed out that there is a need for river safety education in reference to flooding for houses, etc. - safety and the personal responsibilities of all citizens. There is a need for balance between habitat and safety along the river corridor.

Terry Higashiyama distributed an invitation for the REACH Hope Center to all board commissioners. Along with that the following handouts were provided:

- ❖ Flyer for the 4th of July
- ❖ Booklet on Farmers Market
- ❖ Senior Business Plan – Final Copy

Mike O'Donin inquired about the tree limb that fell on 2nd Street by the Renton High School. Discussion followed on the clean-up and assistance involving several City Departments. Tim Searing asked how the City determines if the other trees are in bad shape. Leslie Betlach explained the City has hired an outside Certified Arborist to take a look at all trees in this vicinity to determine the risk level and report on condition of trees.

Terry Higashiyama thanked Al Dieckman for his role in the Park Ranger Volunteer Program and for helping with the organization and on-going efforts. Al noted last year there were a total of eleven (11) volunteers and they are hoping to add two additional volunteers this year. Marlene Wnter asked what the age requirement is to volunteer as a Park Ranger. The age requirement is at least 18 years old due to the volunteer position requirements and having to deal with people on the trail. If someone is looking to volunteer and does not meet the age requirement they can call Teresa Nishi to find out about other volunteer opportunities.

Terry Higashiyama stated there will not be a Park Board meeting in July, 2015. She informed all present that the staff is planning a tour of the Cedar River Watershed for the August meeting and then all are invited to a barbeque at Terry's house after the tour. Notification will be sent to all board commissioners once the tour time is scheduled.

Tim Searing asked about "Movies in the Park" this year. Kris Stimpson said there are four (4) being provided this year – 2 at Henry Moses Aquatic Center and 2 at Coulon Park.

Terry Higashiyama mentioned the upcoming Community Services/Renton River Days Booth.

Leslie Betlach advised the Riverview Park Bridge Construction Project will start this week (Week of June 8th). Marlene Winter asked about the restrooms being closed at Riverview Park. Leslie indicated the water, sewer and electric are being hung under the bridge so it is necessary for the restrooms to be closed during construction.

Terry informed the board the Police caught the person setting fires in the Port-a-toilets at 200 Mill Building. Security cameras assisted in identifying the suspect.

Mike O'Donin inquired about the Milfoil process at the beaches; why not harvest? Staff explained that harvesting doubles the plants because of re-seeding. The herbicide pellets sit on leaves under water and kills the Milfoil.

Al Dieckman asked whether there was any consideration made as to placing the stage for summer concerts in a different location; possibly swing towards Ivar's due to patrons having to look directly into the sun while watching performers. Kris indicated that determination has not been made yet.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Troy reminded all board members the next meeting will be in August. A motion was made by Larry Reymann and seconded by Al Dieckman to adjourn the June 2015 meeting at 5:46 p.m. All were in favor, meeting adjourned.



signature

In Lieu of
NEXT REGULAR MEETING
TOUR – CEDAR RIVER WATERSHED
Friday, August 7, 2015 (10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.)
Cedar River Watershed Education Center
19901 Cedar Falls Road SE
North Bend, WA 98045